

Torrance, California
May 19, 1941

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Monday, May 19, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Councilmen; Babcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: Hitchcock.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

Clerk Bartlett read in full a suggested form of ordinance submitted by the Associated Assessment Engineers, being an ordinance authorizing the sale of city owned real property; providing the procedure to be followed in such sales.

Councilman Hitchcock arrived at 4:56 P.M., during reading of the above ordinance.

A question arose regarding what appeared to be an inconsistency of the ordinance, since one section of said ordinance specified that the property, after being advertised for sale, must be sold for cash, and another section of the ordinance provided that the property could be sold on deferred payment plan.

There was a short discussion on this point, the majority of the Council concurring in the opinion that all the sales should be cash transactions. It was pointed out that a great deal of work would be involved in the collection of payments.

Mayor McGuire mentioned that Mr. Gregg of the Associated Assessment Engineers had said he would furnish a card index showing all encumbrances against each lot to be sold.

Attorney McCall not being present in the meeting at the time, it was decided to await his arrival before discussing the matter further.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$271.92 be made for 12 water meters for stock for the Water Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Attorney McCall arrived at 5:06 P.M. The suggested form of ordinance submitted by the Associated Assessment Engineers, read in full and discussed at this meeting, was referred to Mr. McCall for recommendation.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$301.20 be made for materials for stock for the Water Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire.. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$412.00 be made for purchase of 40 water meters for stock for the Water Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$124.01 be made for purchase of 14 hydrant barrels for stock for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$475.86 be made for purchase of 12 fire hydrant heads for stock for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None..

Councilman Powell moved that City Electrician, O. D. Butterfield, be authorized to attend the Electrical Inspectors meeting to be held in Long Beach, May 21, 1941, expenses paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett announced that numerous complaints had been received regarding the Saturday night dances at the Civic Auditorium, sponsored by Mexican organizations. Chief Stroh appeared at 5:10 P.M. and presented a report regarding this matter, which was read in full by Clerk Bartlett. The report stated that the Police Department had been required to intervene a number of times during fights at the Auditorium during these Saturday night dances.

Councilman Powell moved that the Mexican organization which has been holding the Saturday night dances, during which dances a number of disturbances have arisen, be denied the use of the Civic

Auditorium, and that the Secretary of the organization be notified by letter of the City Council's action in this matter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Acting City Engineer, recommending that certain conditions at the Civic Auditorium, which he stated to be tremendously hazardous, should be corrected, the recommendations being as follows: (1) there should be self-closing doors on both furnace rooms; existing locks should be removed; (2) counter-weights on rear fire door should be completely enclosed in a guard cabinet; (3) the motor, chain drive and counter-weight assembly on the curtain-raising apparatus should be completely enclosed to the topmost position of the counter-weights.

Installation of an ornamental iron, grill fence between the Auditorium and the Chamber of Commerce building, with a gate of the same type at least five feet in width, opening outward, with no locks thereon, was also recommended.

All the above recommendations were submitted as opinions of both Engineer Jain and Fire Chief McMaster.

Clerk Bartlett mentioned that, in connection with the recommendation regarding the chain drive and counter-weight assembly on the curtain raising apparatus, the inspector for the City's insurance carrier had made no recommendations when this matter was called to his attention.

After a short discussion, at which time Engineer Jain again pointed out the hazardous conditions as mentioned in the communication, it was decided to investigate the matter thoroughly before taking action.

Councilman Hitchcock reported that numerous complaints had been received from property owners, particularly in the South part of the City, regarding the fire hazard existing when dry weeds are not burned off vacant lots adjoining their property. Councilman Hitchcock said that, in several instances, the owners of the property cannot be located and thereby required to burn the weeds.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Fire Chief McMaster be authorized to declare fire hazards of property overgrown with weeds where the owner cannot be located to remedy the condition, and that he be further authorized to request Street Superintendent Gascoigne to burn the weeds from the property declared to be fire hazards. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Referring back to the ordinance submitted to the City Attorney for recommendation, Attorney McCall said that, in his opinion, it would be advisable to delete that portion of the proposed ordinance providing that the property could be sold on deferred payment plan, but that this would not be absolutely necessary, inasmuch as the City Council only has the authority to approve the sale of property on the deferred payment plan.

Councilman Babcock suggested that the section of the ordinance providing for sale of property on deferred payment plan be deleted from the ordinance before adoption.

It was decided to defer action on this matter until the meeting of May 20, 1941.

At 5:28 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned to May 20, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance